

U.S. Application No. 10/826,856
Art Unit 3677
Page 8 of 11

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 9-11, 18, and 20-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 18 and 20 are amended. New claims 21-30 have been added. Claims 4, 7, and 8 are now cancelled and claims 2, 6, 12-17, and 19 have been withdrawn. Upon consideration of the remarks set forth herein, Applicant believes that claims 2 and 19 depend from an allowable generic claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 2 and 19 be rejoined with the present application in accordance with MPEP § 821.04. In light of the amendments and the foregoing remarks, Applicant believes the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice of allowance of claims 1-3, 5, 9-11, and 18-30.

Paragraph [0017] of the specification is presently amended. The amendments to the specification are completely supported by the claims, drawings, and specification. No new matter is believed to have been added. An indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 18, and 20 were objected to by the Examiner for various informalities. The Examiner objected to the phrase "box receiving surface" in claim 1 and claim 1 is now currently amended to replace "box receiving surface" with "mailbox post". The Examiner also objected to the word "surface" in claim 1, line 8. Claim 1 is now currently amended to replace the word "surface" with "mailbox post". The Examiner also objected to the second recitation of "a" in claim 5, line 2. Claim 5 is now currently amended to replace the appropriate instance of the word "a" in claim 5 with the word "the". The Examiner objected to claim 18, paragraphs a-b as being grammatically unclear. Claim 18 is now currently amended and the amendments are believed to have cleared up any grammatical ambiguities. The Examiner objected to the references to tabs in claim 20, lines 2 and 3 as being unclear. Claim 20 is currently amended to clarify the references to the tabs. Finally, claim 20, line 4 was objected to for failure to insert the word "device" after the word "attachment". Claim 20 is now currently amended to include the word "device" after the word "attachment". While Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's objections, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the recommendations.

Now pending claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by US Patent 6,161,756 (herein "Upton"). Claim 1 has been

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U.S. Application No. 10/826,856
Art Unit 3677
Page 9 of 11

amended to include all of the limitations present in Claim 8 including all of the limitations of the intervening claims, i.e., those not found in the prior art. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claims. Therefore, it is believed that amended claim 1 is now in allowable form. Claims 3, 9, and 10 depend directly from claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reason claim 1 is believed allowable. Claims 3, 9, and 10 also include patentable subject matter in addition to claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 3, 9, and 10 is respectfully requested.

Claim 18, as amended, recites a method for attaching a mailbox with an attachment device and includes a locking step whereby the first and second attachment plates are locked together with a locking means having a cylinder and a movable cam and a lock receiving means comprising a groove configured to receive the cam. Claim 18 has also been amended to clear up the Examiner's objections. Moreover, as claim 18 now contains the limitations of the above-discussed claim 1, claim 18 is now believed allowable, i.e., it now includes a method for locking the attachment device together that is not disclosed by Upton. Claim 20 depends directly from claim 18 and is believed allowable for the same reason claim 18 is believed allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 18 and 20 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by US Patent 4,955,534 (herein "Raible"). With respect to claim 1, it is presently amended to include all of the limitations present in claim 8 and all of its intervening claims. Because claim 8 was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claims, it is believed that claim 1 is now in allowable form. Claim 5 depends directly from claim 1 and is believed to be allowable for the same reason claim 1 is believed allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 and 5 is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Upton in view of US Patent 4,872,610 (herein "Grabowiecki"). Claim 11 depends directly from

U.S. Application No. 10/826,856
Art Unit 3677
Page 10 of 11

claim 1 and is believed allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is now believed allowable. Additionally, claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Raible in view of Grabowiecki. As discussed previously, claim 11 depends directly from claim 1, and it is believed that claim 11 is now allowable for the same reason claim 1 is believed allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 is respectfully requested.

As previously stated, claims 2 and 19 were withdrawn by the Examiner as being drawn to a nonelected species. However, claims 2 and 19 are believed to depend from otherwise allowable and generic claims 1 and 18 respectively. Accordingly, Applicant believes claims 2 and 19 are in condition for allowance, at least pursuant to the chain of dependency, and should be rejoined.

New claims 21-30 are presented. Claims 21-23 depend on now allowable claim 1. Claims 24-26 depend on now allowable claim 18. Claim 27 contains limitations previously indicated to be allowable by the Examiner elsewhere and therefore should also be allowable. Claims 28-30 depend therefrom and thus should also be allowable.

CONCLUSION

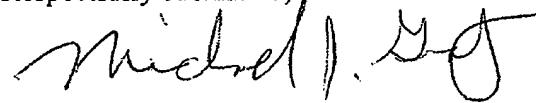
It is submitted that claims 1-3, 5, 9-11, 18-30 define patentable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be payable. Nevertheless, should the Examiner consider any other fee to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, the Director is authorized to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

U.S. Application No. 10/826,856
Art Unit 3677
Page 11 of 11

The Examiner is please asked to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite the prosecution and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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